



# **MICHIGAN ADOPTION DAY**

Giving thanks for families

Tuesday, November 22, 2005

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Third 'Michigan Adoption Day' to be held Nov. 22 State celebrates adoptive families, observes adoption month**

LANSING November 4, 2005 – This Thanksgiving, families throughout Michigan will have a special reason to celebrate: permanent homes for adopted children.

Michigan Adoption Day, now in its third year, takes place each year on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving; this year's date is November 22. The event is sponsored by the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Michigan Supreme Court. Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has proclaimed that November is Adoption Month in Michigan while the Michigan Supreme Court has issued a resolution naming Nov. 22 as Michigan Adoption Day.

"Every child needs and deserves a loving family," said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. "Michigan's Adoption Day is our opportunity to celebrate the lifetime commitment being made by these families and their children. It is also important to emphasize the ongoing need for adoptive families to make other foster children's dreams come true."

Local courts, DHS offices and private adoption agencies from Chippewa to Cass counties are collaborating on the event that will include finalizing adoptions and parties for adoptive families. Over 30 counties are expected to participate. Some counties will hold informational open houses with speakers and information about the adoption process.

"Adoptions are one of the few occasions when people are happy to come to court and these are happy events for a very good reason," said Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor. "Children need the stability, love and support of a permanent family. My fellow justices and I hope Michigan Adoption Day will inspire people to consider becoming adoptive parents."

A number of other states observe National Adoption Day on Saturday, November 19, one of the dates designated for the festivities. Although many states hold their own Adoption Day activities, Michigan's 2003 and 2004 events were said, by national organizers, to be the largest in the country.

“Adoption Day is one of the most joyous days of the year with children and adults coming together to celebrate the choice of love and to become part of a forever family. The joy of the children and families is so contagious,” said DHS director Marianne Udow. “This is a great time for other families to consider adoption and to contact our department to start the process.”

While DHS and state courts strive to reunite children with their birth parents, doing so is not always in the child’s best interest. Courts may terminate parental rights in cases of child abuse and neglect. There are more than 4,000 children with parental rights terminated who are either waiting for their adoption to be finalized or waiting for a family. Most children who are waiting for a family are older, members of minorities, or sibling groups – the hardest to place. Youths in the foster care system need adoptive families so that they do not leave the foster care system without a connection to a supportive adult.

Anyone interested in adopting a child may contact MARE at (800) 589-6273 or on the Internet at <http://www.mare.org>

For more information about Michigan Adoption Day, visit these Web sites:

Michigan Supreme Court/Michigan Adoption Day:  
<http://www.courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Press/MichiganAdoptionDayIndex.htm>

Michigan Department of Human Services: <http://www.michigan.gov/dhs>

National Adoption Day: <http://www.nationaladoptionday.org/2005/index.asp>